EXCISE (74) E B1A9 B1A4

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P 121148Z NOV 81
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6039
INFO AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL UDORN
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
CDC ATLANTA GA
CDRAARADCOM EDGEWOOD ARS MD
CHIEF OF STAFF ARMY WASHDC
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DIA FOR DC-4B
CSA FOR DAMI-ISH
CDRAARADCON FIR DRDAR-SE1C
EO 12065: RDS-2 11/12/01 (ROY, J. STAPLETON) OR-M
TAGS: PARM, MOPS, SHUM, PORG, LA, VM, UR
SUBJ: 1980 HMONG "GAS" VICTIMS

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1. (C) SUMMARY. [redacted] B1A9

[redacted] NOTES COMPILED IN B1A9
1980 BASED ON INTERVIEWS AND
EXAMINATION OF 14 HMONG WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE
SUFFERED "POISON GAS" ATTACKS IN JANUARY - MAY
OF THAT YEAR. [redacted] ILLNESSES B1A4
SUCH AS DIZZINESS, BLOODY VOMITING, CHEST PAINS
AND COUGHING OF BLOODY SPUTUM. THEY ALSO REPORT
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ADDITIONAL SYMPTOMS NOT REGULARLY FOUND,
INCLUDING IMPOTENCE, MISCARRIAGES AND NUMBNESS
OF LIMBS. THE HMONG INVOLVED WERE SAID TO HAVE
ASSERTED THAT REGULAR USE OF GAS IN THEIR
AREA BEGAN ONLY IN 1978, AND THAT BOTH PRO-
VIETNAMESE AND "PRO-U.S." HMONG WERE "GASSED".
[redacted] B1A9, B1A4

END SUMMARY.
2. (C) [redacted] B1A9

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REVIEWED BY T. Heaver DATE 8/31/82
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PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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[redacted] EXAMINATION/ B1A9
INTERVIEW OF 14 HMONG WHO CLAIMED TO HAVE SUFFERED
A "POISON GAS" ATTACK IN THE PERIOD 15-20
MAY, 1980.
3. (U) THE ALLEGED ATTACK TARGETED A VILLAGE
AREA (CLUSTER OF VILLAGES ?) WHICH HAD A POPULATION
OF 4,000, 30 OF WHOM ALLEGEDLY DIED IN THE ATTACK.
THE VILLAGE AREA REPORTEDLY WAS HIT BY GAS SEVERAL
TIMES IN THE PERIOD JANUARY-MAY 1980. [redacted] B1A4
[redacted] BOTH PRO-U.S. AND PRO-VIETNAMESE
HMONG SETTLEMENTS IN THE AREA WERE "GASSED" IN
EARLY 1980. PRO-VIETNAMESE HMONG REPORTEDLY
TOOK SAMPLES OF THE YELLOW POWDER DROPPED IN
THE ATTACKS TO VIENTIANE TO SEEK AN EXPLANATION.
LAO AUTHORITIES REPORTEDLY TOLD THEM IT WAS
THE U.S. THAT WAS "USING THE GAS ON THE HMONG
PEOPLE." AFTER MAY, 1980, THE SOURCES REPORT,
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POISON GAS WAS USED ON PEOPLE AND NOT ON CROPS.
4. (U) BRIEFLY RECOUNTING THE HISTORY OF "POISON
GAS" EPISODES ACCORDING TO THE HMONG INTERVIEWEES,
[redacted] UP UNTIL 1978 ATTACKS B1A4
AGAINST THE HMONG FROM THE AIR CONSISTED OF
BOMBS WHICH "EXPLODED SENDING OUT TINY NEEDLES."
AFTER 1978, THE HMONG FACED "GAS-LIKE RAIN,
YELLOW AND RED." THE "GAS" KILLED PLANTS BUT
DID NOT DEFOLIATE TREES ENABLING THE HMONG
TO CONTINUE TO HIDE IN THE JUNGLE. SYMPTOMS
PRODUCED BY THE "GAS" USED SINCE 1978 INCLUDED:
DIARRHEA WITH BLOOD, FEVER, COUGHING AND VOMITING
WITH BLOOD. PREGNANT WOMEN LOST BABIES
4-5 MONTHS AFTER EXPOSURE TO THE "GAS."
5. (U) [redacted] SYMPTOMS/ B1A4
CONDITIONS OF 14 HMONG INTERVIEWED AND EXAMINED
IN MID-1980:
-- DIZZINESS: ALL 14 COMPLAINED OF FEELING DIZZY-
DRUNK AND FAINTING IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ATTACK;
3 SAID THE CONDITION CONTINUED UP TO TIME OF
INTERVIEW.
-- NAUSEA-VOMITING: SEVEN COMPLAINED OF INITIAL
NAUSEA (ONE CHRONIC); TWO REPORTED VOMITING OF
FOOD, WHILE FIVE REPORTED VOMITING OF BLOOD.
ONE VICTIM CONTINUED TO VOMIT SPUTUM AT TIME
OF INTERVIEW. ONE VICTIM COMPLAINED OF CHRONIC
DYSPEPSIA.
-- IMPOTENCE: 10 REPORTED CHRONIC.
-- CHEST: 11 REPORTED INITIAL CHEST PAIN WHILE
9 REPORTED CHRONIC COUGH SINCE THE ATTACK.
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FIVE COMPLAINED OF BLOODY SPUTUM; ONE OF BLACK
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SPUTUM (CHRONIC) AND 6 OF PUS SPUTUM (ALL CHRONIC).
ONE COMPLAINED OF TIGHTNESS IN THE CHEST (CHRONIC);
3 COMPLAINED OF DIFFICULTY BREATHING (TWO CHRONIC).
-- EYES: 3 REPORTED BURNING EYES (ONE CHRONIC);
TWO REPORTED BLURRED VISION.
-- NERVES: FOUR COMPLAINED OF CHRONIC NUMBNESS,
ONE EACH MENTIONING INCREASING NUMBNESS IN HIPS
AND LEGS; ONE REPORTED CHRONIC TREMOR WHILE
FIVE REPORTED GENERAL WEAKNESS (ALL CHRONIC).
-- APPETITE: NINE REPORTED THEY ATE POORLY
AFTER THE ATTACK (FIVE CHRONIC). THE DOCTOR
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DESCRIBED THREE AS ANOREXIC.
-- ONE SUFFERED CHRONIC HYPOTENSION.
-- ONE COMPLAINED OF CHRONIC ABDOMINAL PAINS.
-- ONE COMPLAINED OF CHRONIC GENERAL BODY PAINS.
-- ONE COMPLAINED OF FEVER INTERMITTENT SINCE
THE ATTACK.
-- ONE CLAIMED HIS URINE HAD CHANGED COLOR (NFI).
-- THE DOCTOR NOTED ONE PATIENT HAD AN ENLARGED SPLEEN.
-- ONE PATIENT WHO DRANK CONTAMINATED WATER
SUFFERED VOMITING, BLOODY DIARRHEA, COUGHED
BLOOD, SLEPT ON AND OFF FOR FOUR DAYS, AND
CONTINUED TO EAT POORLY, FELT WEAK AND WAS IMPOTENT
AT TIME OF INTERVIEW.
6. (C) [redacted] B1A9

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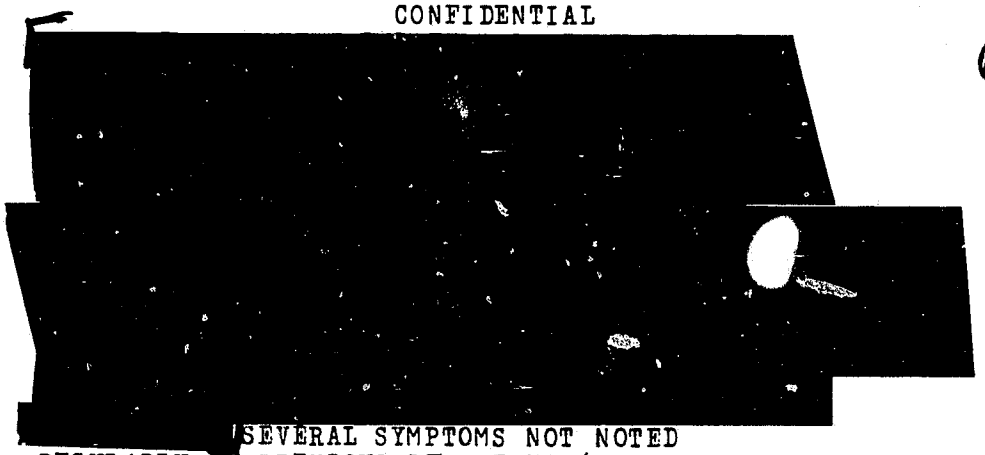
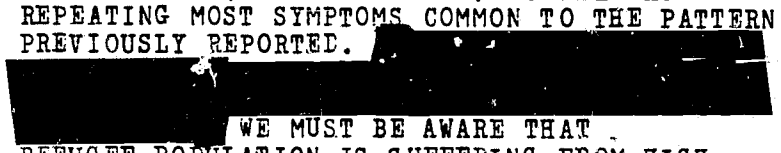


SEVERAL SYMPTOMS NOT NOTED REGULARLY IN PREVIOUS REPORTING (IMPOTENCE, MISCARRIAGES, LIMB NUMBNESS) AS WELL AS REPEATING MOST SYMPTOMS COMMON TO THE PATTERN PREVIOUSLY REPORTED.

B1A4



WE MUST BE AWARE THAT REFUGEE POPULATION IS SUFFERING FROM HIGH INCIDENCE OF CHRONIC WASTING DISEASES SUCH AS MALNUTRITION, ANEMIA, MALARIA, PARASITES AND TUBERCULOSIS. ONE SUSPECTS THAT IF A NON-GAS EXPOSED GROUP OF THIS POPULATION IS ASKED ABOUT SYMPTOMS OF DISEASE, MANY OF THE COMPLAINTS COLLECTED WOULD ALSO BE VOLUNTEERED. END COMMENT.
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